

March 28, 2016

Justin Tipton
1429 Senate Street
Room: 507-B
Columbia, SC 29201
jtipton@ed.sc.gov

Dear Mr. Tipton:

On behalf of District Five Schools of Spartanburg County, I respectfully request an extension for the submission of a new 5-year district strategic plan and the corresponding, district aligned, 5-year school renewal plans. During the 2010-2011 school year, stakeholders in Spartanburg Five worked collaboratively to develop a new 5-year strategic plan applicable for the 2011-2012 school year through the 2015-2016 school year.

During this time period, the transition from PACT to PASS hindered access to sufficient longitudinal data to establish valid baseline values. Furthermore, stakeholders found it difficult to create realistic “smart goals” in addition to setting interim performance goals. Although our systemic process for collaboratively developing our current strategic plan was recognized as a “Powerful Practice” by the most recent AdvancED[®] External Review Team, the update phase each subsequent year validated our concern and need for a sufficient sample of longitudinal data.

Therefore, we are requesting permission to submit our updated, current strategic plan for the 2015-16 school year with the intention of developing a new, 5-year strategic plan during the 2016-17 school year and then submitting in April 2017. Our reasons for the extension include:

1. Lack of baseline data for English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics
2. Lack of state assessment consistency for three years in ELA and Mathematics
3. Lack of state standards consistency for three years in ELA and Mathematics
4. Changes and proposed changes in state and federal accountability measures
5. Changes and proposed changes to teacher and principal evaluation policies and practices

Because of unprecedented transition in standards, assessment, teacher/principal evaluation, and accountability measures, we respectfully request an extension for the creation, and submission of a new 5-year strategic plan and the corresponding school renewal plans.

Sincerely,



Scott Turner, Ed.D.
Superintendent